

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (ORIGINAL), or (not entered).

Please ADD claims 38 and 39 in accordance with the following:

1-10. (Cancelled)

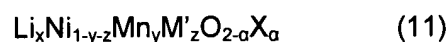
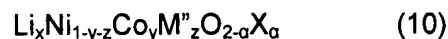
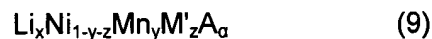
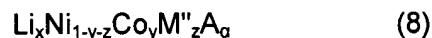
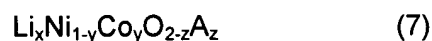
11. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a positive active material for a rechargeable lithium battery comprising:

coating at least one lithiated compound with an organic solution of coating material source or an aqueous solution of coating material source to produce a coated lithiated compound; and

drying the coated lithiated compound forming the positive active material for the rechargeable lithium battery, without further heat-treating the dried coated lithiated compound.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the lithiated compound is at least one lithiated compound represented by formulas 1 to 11,





where

$$0.95 \leq x \leq 1.1, 0 \leq y \leq 0.5, 0 \leq z \leq 0.5, 0 \leq \alpha \leq 2,$$

M is Ni or Co,

M' is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Al, Ni, Co, Cr, Fe, Mg, Sr, V, Sc, Y, La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Pm, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu, Ac, Th, Pa, U, Np, Pu, Am, Cm, Bk, Cf, Es, Fm, Md, No and Lr,

M'' is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Al, Cr, Mn, Fe, Mg, Sr, V, Sc, Y, La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Pm, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu, Ac, Th, Pa, U, Np, Pu, Am, Cm, Bk, Cf, Es, Fm, Md, No and Lr,

A is selected from the group consisting of O, F, S and P, and

X is selected from the group consisting of F, S and P.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the organic solution of coating material source is prepared by adding a coating material source to an organic solvent to form a mixture, the coating material source being selected from the group consisting of a coating element, a coating element included-alkoxide, salt and oxide.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the mixture is refluxed to form the organic solution of coating material source.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the aqueous solution of coating material source is prepared by adding a coating material source to water to form a mixture, the coating material source being selected from the group consisting of a coating element included-salt and oxide.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the mixture is refluxed to form the aqueous solution of coating material source.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the organic solution of coating material source is formed from a coating element that is soluble in organic solvents, and the aqueous solution of coating material source is formed from a coating element that is soluble in water.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the coating element of the coating material source is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Mg, Al, Co, K, Na, Ca, Si, Ti, Sn, V, Ge, Ga, B, As, Zr, and a mixture thereof.

19. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the concentration of coating material source in the organic solution or aqueous solution is 0.1 to 50 percent by weight.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the concentration of coating material source in the organic solution or aqueous solution is 5 to 30 percent by weight.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the coating of the at least one lithiated compound is performed by injecting the lithiated compound and the organic solution or the aqueous solution of coating material source into a mixer and continuously increasing the temperature within the mixer.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the coating of the at least one lithiated compound further comprises injecting blowing gas into the mixer.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the coating of the at least one lithiated compound is performed under a vacuum.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising sieving the dried coated compound.

25-37. (Cancelled)

38. (New Claim) A method of preparing a positive active material including a core and a surface-treatment layer, for a rechargeable lithium battery, the method comprising:

coating the core including at least one lithiated compound, with an organic solution of coating material source or an aqueous solution of coating material source; and

drying the coated core at a temperature where a conversion of a precursor to an oxide does not occur, forming the surface treatment layer on the core.

39. (New Claim) A method of preparing a positive active material for a rechargeable lithium battery comprising:

coating a core having at least one lithiated compound with an organic solution of coating material source or an aqueous solution of coating material source; and

drying the core without heat-treating the core, forming a surface treatment layer on the core,

wherein the surface treatment layer includes a coating element-included hydroxide, oxyhydroxide, oxycarbonate, hydroxycarbonate or a mixture thereof.